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STATINTL

Helms Now Says He's Sorry About That

## CIA Head Trips on His Pen

Central Intelligence Director Richard Helms, widely complimented for his care with the cloak and dagger, faced a Senate scolding today for wielding a clumsy pen.

Mr. Helms, in office but a month, was the target of Senate outrage yesterday for a letter to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat praising an editorial rebuke to Chairman J. William Fulbright of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Mr. Helms called Sen. Fulbright later to say he was sorry about that.

Today he will have a chance to tell Sen. Fulbright in person during a scheduled appearance before the Senator's committee.

### LIKED EDITORIAL

In the eyes of his Senate critics, Mr. Helms blundered when he wrote the Globe-Democrat in praise of an editorial applauding failure of the Foreign Relations Committee to get representation on the Senate panel overseeing the CIA.

The editorial labeled Sen. Fulbright a "crafty Arkansan" and said the Senate "properly rebuked Sen. Fulbright and

gave the CIA a sound vote of confidence."

Mr. Helms' letter, published in the Globe-Democrat under the headline "CIA Head Pleased," said: "I want to let you know of my pleasure in reading the editorial 'Brickbats for Fulbright' in the Globe-Democrat of July 10.

"It reflects so well your paper's policy of 'printing the news impartially, supporting what it believes to be right and opposing what it believes to be wrong without regard to party politics.'"

### 'OUT OF ORDER'

Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy (D., Minn.), author of the original CIA expansion resolution, told his Senate colleagues yesterday he thought Mr. Helms' letter was "entirely out of order... he owes an apology to every member of the United States Senate."

Other senators, from Democratic leader Mike Mansfield on down, said they had to agree, some in "shock" and all with surprise, that such public comment by an agency

head was unquestionably indiscreet.

While the voices of disapproval were still rising from the Senate floor, Sen. Leverett Saltonstall (R., Mass.) reported he talked to Mr. Helms during the debate and the CIA chief said he "was sorry for it."

(UPI)

CPYRGHT